

# BIG BATTLE REPORTED AS RAGING IN POLAND TO SOUTH OF WARSAW

## Teuton Allies Are Cheered By Announced Success of Austrians Against Russian Invaders.

WARSAW, via London, December 17, 4:20 p.m.—A great battle is in progress at Sochaczew, thirty miles west of Warsaw. The German wedge which is proceeding in a southeasterly direction from Ilow has managed, after heavy fighting in which serious losses are reported to have been inflicted, to establish itself a quarter of a mile west of Sochaczew. The Polish campaign now centers at that point.

BERLIN, December 17 (by wireless to Sayville, L. I.)—The first actual successes against the Russians in the last few days appear to have been achieved by the Austrians in West Galicia.

Here the Russians, according to advices received from the zone of hostilities, have been attacked simultaneously from two sides; on their right by an offensive from the eastward of Cracow and on their left front by a movement being directed from the south.

### RUSSIANS BEING DRIVEN NORTHWARD.

The report that the Austrians are following up the retiring Russian army from the south shows, in the opinion of military observers, that the Russians are being forced northward upon their forces in western Poland.

Whether this retirement will extend to the Russians massed to the north of Piotrkow will depend on the events of the next few days.

### Russian Flank Menaced.

The report of the withdrawal of the German column which advanced through Malwa, northern Poland, indicates that the Russians recognized in time the menace to their right flank. The old positions reoccupied by the Germans are fortified and, in the belief of military critics, can be held for a long time under normal conditions, even against a greatly superior force.

The German offensive in northern Poland appears to be proceeding according to program, reports from the frontier say, without disarrangement by the Russians.

That the Austrians were obliged to evacuate Belgrade, Serbia, after having retired before the Serbian army to the southward of Valjevo, points to the advance of unexpectedly strong Serbian forces. The assumption also appears justified that the Austrians may possibly have withdrawn troops from Serbia for use in West Galicia, trusting to chance that the Serbs were incapable of a further decided offensive.

### Many Prisoners Captured.

A statement given out today by the German official press bureau says:

"The Austrian general staff reports that 31,000 Russians have been taken prisoners in West Galicia. During the last two weeks' fighting in Poland the Russians have lost about 200,000 men."

"A correspondent was taken to a German artillery position during the fight. He declares that among all the men there was keen enthusiasm and splendid discipline. There is an excellent understanding between the Germans and the inhabitants in the conquered territory of Poland."

"The Russians, during the retreat, carried away all victuals. The Russian Poles are in great distress. They are being poorly fed, mainly with potatoes. The German authorities are doing all they can to prevent famine among the population. They have allowed the people to search the battlefield for food. There is an excellent understanding between the Germans and the inhabitants in the conquered territory of Poland."

"The Russian offensive in this sphere gave rise at one time to some anxiety, but the offensive has now completely broken down."

### Counterclaims by Russians.

LONDON, December 17.—Russia claims to have checked for the moment the movement of the Austrians across the Carpathian passes. She contends also that she has pushed the Germans further back toward the East Prussian frontier, at the eastern extremity of the eastern front. West of Warsaw, however, the Germans continue their advance.

The correspondent of the Times in Petrograd understands that three additional corps from the west have reached the German armies on the Russian front, making altogether nine corps which have reached Field Mar-

# GERMANS FORCED TO DEFENSIVE IN WESTERN THEATER OF WAR

LONDON, December 17.—In the western arena of the war, especially in Flanders, the roles of the contending armies would appear today to have been clearly reversed. All the recent official communications, issued by both the allies and the Germans, refer to the allies' offensive from Ypres to the sea. Consequently the Germans are on the defensive.

A British squadron is still standing off the coast and has aided the attack in the vicinity of Neuport, but nowhere has marked progress been noted. It may be said, nevertheless, that the attempt of the allies to push the Germans out of Belgium has definitely begun and that the results so far recorded in Flanders have converted the German line into a series of tenaciously held positions, rather than a straight front, at many points allied wedges have been driven in.

The German press, commenting on the situation in the west, has expressed the opinion that operations of importance are impending in Alsace, where, it is said, French reinforce-

# POSSIBLE AXAXXON FIGURES ON SOUND

## Easily Reduced to Disproof on Their Own Analysis.

### DISTRICT CANNOT RAISE FUNDS AT PROPOSED RATE

Washington Would Be the Most  
Heavily Taxed of All Ameri-  
can Cities.

The action of the House upon the Johnson amendment was based in part upon Mr. Prouty's figures of comparative assessment and taxation, upon his chart purporting to show that the Washingtonian is taxed only ten mills on the dollar of actual realty value, as compared with nineteen mills in other selected cities; and that Washington's assessment is undepictedly only one-third of full valuation.

City	Prouty's tax rate (mills)	Census per capita tax levy (mills)	Census total tax levy (mills)
Boston	12.2	18.1	22.2
Bridgeport, Conn.	16.5	13.7	14.3
Brooklyn, N. Y.	12.2	18.1	22.2
Buffalo	12.2	18.1	22.2
Baltimore	12.2	18.1	22.2
Cambridge	12.2	18.1	22.2
Camden, N. J.	20.9	1.18	708.87
Charleston, S. C.	12.2	18.1	22.2
Chicago	17.1	16.91	38.91
Cincinnati	12.2	18.1	22.2
Cleveland	12.2	18.1	22.2
Detroit	12.2	18.1	22.2
Des Moines	12.2	18.1	22.2
Full River, Mass.	20.3	1.18	708.87
Grand Rapids	12.2	18.1	22.2
Jersey City	21.2	12.69	23.70
Lawrence, Mass.	18.0	12.47	11.3
Lincoln, Neb.	10.7	14.14	10.4
Lowell, Mass.	19.4	12.81	13.83
Indianapolis	12.2	18.1	22.2
Lynn, Mass.	20.0	14.44	13.7
Milwaukee	17.6	17.14	18.53
Minneapolis	17.9	17.90	18.82
Newark, N. J.	20.2	18.54	18.66
New Haven, Conn.	19.0	16.18	16.18
New Orleans	12.2	18.1	22.2
New York	12.2	18.1	22.2
Philadelphia	12.2	18.1	22.2
Pittsburgh	12.2	18.1	22.2
Providence	20.3	16.80	3.91
Rochester, N. Y.	19.3	26.80	3.96
Springfield, Ill.	18.2	11.20	6.21
St. Louis	15.1	17.35	12.43
St. Paul	17.6	12.17	2.94
Syracuse, N. Y.	20.0	16.36	2.94
Trenton, N. J.	20.0	10.00	1.00
Utica, N. Y.	22.0	13.61	1.66
Washington	10.0	15.75	5.38

Mr. Prouty's figures of comparative tax burden in the above table are shown to be misleading and inaccurate, not only by the census authorities in discussing the basis on which these figures rest, but by the grotesque results which follow acceptance of the accuracy of the reports of the relation of assessed to true value, and the attempt to this false report very effectively show, in measuring comparative tax burdens.

According to Mr. Prouty, Washington is not only the lowest taxed American city, but is the richest in per capita taxable resources. At the root of this delusion of vast wealth in Washington is H. J. Brown's condensation of single-tax estimates of 1912 of \$744,000,000 in realty values at the capital. Mr. Prouty enthusiastically adopts Mr. Brown's guess, as accepted by Mr. George, because by so doing he can at one stroke make a point both against Mr. George and his constituents. Apparently, Mr. Prouty is careless how this grossly excessive estimate was reached, whether it is accurate or inaccurate, fair or unfair to the people of Washington.

The excessive and condensation character of Washington's tax rate, as shown in detail in The Star of February 21, 1913, on the basis of Mr. Brown's guess at the value of the city, is shown by figures that Washington can easily raise in annual taxes \$14,837,000. He uses his own guesswork concerning and manipulation of the tax rate to show that Washington can readily collect an annual levy of \$14,917,291.75.

At the last session said: "The committee of one hundred knows full well that if property in the District of Columbia was taxed substantially the same as it is taxed in other cities it would produce over \$15,000,000, while it requires about \$14,000,000 to pay all expenses." This is the vital issue in Washington in tax-raising capacity a six to seven million of a fourteen to twenty million city.

### A Six or Fifteen Million City?

The last column of figures in the table throws some light on this question. It shows that Washington in 1912, with its property tax levy of \$5,338,354, raised more taxes than twenty-four cities in a list of forty, exceeding such cities as New Orleans, Jersey City, Indianapolis and St. Paul.

Mr. Prouty's fifteen-million property tax has been raised Washington would have paid in taxes more than St. Louis, Baltimore, Detroit and Cleveland; only fourteen exceeding it.

Mr. Prouty proposes to collect from the local taxpayers \$15,000,000, approximately three times as much as they are now paying, making their per capita levy 50 per cent higher than the most excessively taxed city in the United States and two or three or four times as much as other cities of the capital's class. Mr. Prouty would raise from 50,000 taxpayers in resourceless Washington more than was raised in 1912 in Detroit and New Orleans combined, about as much as Baltimore and Milwaukee combined, 25 per cent more than St. Louis, 50 per cent more than Cleveland.

What fair-minded American, in or out of Congress, would attempt to collect from the 50,000 local taxpayers, nearly all of whom are small property owners, \$15,000,000, or approximately twice as much as the total raised in 1912 through all kinds of taxation by Baltimore, New York, St. Louis, Chicago, and the whole of Cleveland and approximately three times as much as was collected in all taxes in New Orleans?

Where are the Washingtonians to get these fifteen million dollars of taxes, or even half of that? The answer is, from the ordinary manufacturing and industrial city. They have no Rockefeller money. Their great employers are of any degree to be bled after socialist methods of taxation for the public benefit. Their great employers are manufacturers and capitalists of industry are consolidated in Uncle Sam. Their richest men are wealthy Americans from all over the republic who at first are only winter residents of the capital. These men are, like the workmen, the backbone of the city.

Is it the plan to depopulate the city? To confiscate the land on single-tax principles by excessive taxation?

(Continued on Fifth Page.)



# War Officially Reported.

## German Statement

BERLIN, December 17, by wireless to London, 3 p.m.—Army headquarters today issued the following statement: "Yesterday the French continued their attacks at Neuport without success. Attacks were attempted at Lillebecke and La Bassée, but were repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy. "The intention of the French to throw a bridge over the Aisne at Solomons was prevented by our artillery. "French earthworks to the east of Rheims were destroyed. "There is no news on the East and West Prussian frontiers. The Russian offensive against Silesia and Posen has completely broken down. In the whole of Poland the enemy was forced to retreat after fierce and stubborn frontal battles, and is being pursued everywhere. "During the fighting in northern Poland yesterday and the previous day the bravery of the West Prussian Heerstruppen gained a victory. The effect of this victory cannot yet be estimated."

## French Statement

PARIS, December 17, 2:50 p.m.—The French war office gave out an official statement this afternoon as follows: "Between the sea and the Lys we have occupied several German trenches at the point of the bayonet; consolidated our positions at Lomhaertede and St. Georges, and organized the territory taken from the enemy to the west of Gheluvelt. "We have made progress at some points in the region of Vermelles. "There has been no effective shooting on the part of our heavy artillery in the environs of Tracy-le-Val, on the Aisne and in Champagne, as well as in the Argonne and in the region of Verdun. "In Lorraine and in Alsace there is nothing to report."

## Austrian Statement

LONDON, December 17.—A dispatch to Reuters' Telegram Company from Vienna contains the following official statement: "The garrison at Przemysl has made a new sortie in force, in which the Hungarian landwehr stormed a point at Duppau, surrounded by wire entanglements, and brought back to the fortress a number of prisoners and some captured machine guns. "In Galicia and south Poland the retreating enemy is being pursued along the entire front. At Lubok, Krosno, Jaslo and in the Blina valley strong Russian forces offered resistance. "The Russian cruiser Akolod sank two small ships off Belost, Syria. "In south Poland the enemy's rear guards everywhere, after a brief battle, were compelled to yield. "In the Carpathians the Russians have not yet abandoned their advance into the Latorca valley. In the upper valley at Nadworna, on the Bistrica river, the enemy's attacks were repulsed."

## Russian Statements

PETROGRAD, December 17.—The following statement from the general staff of the commander-in-chief of the Russian forces has been issued: "In the direction of Mlawa we have repulsed the enemy toward the frontier. "On the left bank of the Vistula the Germans kept up a stubborn attack throughout the day along the line from Kierosna to Sochaczew. Owing to the unfavorable condition of the country our troops retreated slightly during the evening. "On the other sections of the front our troops made counter attacks and compelled the enemy to remain on his positions, checking his attempts to advance. "Our strategy has stopped the Austrian advance from beyond the Carpathians. "On other points there is no important change to report. "A communication issued by the Russian army staff in the Caucasus says: "The Turks, considerably reinforced from Baghdad and by a new formation, assumed the offensive in the Euphrates valley and the Van region, which resulted in a number of engagements of secondary importance. In these battles the Russians were invariably victorious, with the result that the Turkish forces are demoralized and in some cases have lost their effectiveness."

## Turkish Statement

LONDON, December 17.—A dispatch from Constantinople, via Amsterdam, to Reuters' Telegram Company, gives the following official Turkish statement: "Several days' battle near the vilayet of Van has ended in our favor, and our troops have entered Sarai. "A British cruiser unsuccessfully bombarded a Turkish watch tower between Jappa and Gazza, in Palestine, on the Mediterranean. "The Russian cruiser Akolod sank two small ships off Belost, Syria. "The loss of the old battleship Mesoudieh, after a final examination, must be attributed to a floating mine or to a torpedo."

## Servian Statement

PARIS, December 17.—A dispatch to the Havas Agency from Nish, dated December 15, but delayed in transmission, gives the following official statement: "On the northwestern front our troops, December 14, continued a vigorous pursuit of the enemy. They had cleared all the territory between the Drina and Save rivers and occupied Shabats and Lomnita in the Mladanovica-Belgrade region. "Our troops repeatedly assaulted the enemy's positions at Kraljevo, Bara and Kosodona, driving the Austrians out of their trenches by the use of bombs. The enemy suffered heavy losses on this front. At Kovona we captured a battalion and a half. "On the Austrian right our troops broke the enemy's resistance at Petrovgrad. The trenches were filled with bodies of the enemy. "On the other fronts there is nothing to report. During the day of December 14 on all fronts we captured 17 officers and 2,450 men, not including the battalion and a half taken at Kovona. "In addition we took five field pieces, four mortars, six quick-firers, horses and field batteries."

# GERMAN SHIPS' SHELS KILL 70, WOUND 137 IN THREE BRITISH TOWNS

## Raiding Squadron Escapes in Fog After Partly Wrecking English Coast Cities—Another Attack Expected.

# BRISTLING WITH RAGE, BRITONS RUSH TO ENLIST IN THE ARMY

Kaiser's Squadron Steams in Close and Fires Broad-  
sides  
for Thirty Minutes Into Scarborough—Great Dam-  
age Done There and at Hartlepool—Lon-  
don Organizes National Guard.

## Seventy Dead, 137 Wounded.

LONDON, December 17, 11:45 a.m.—The casualties at Hartlepool as a result of the German naval raid, according to an official bureau statement today, were 55 persons killed and 115 wounded.

Unofficial reports have indicated that 13 were killed and 20 wounded at Scarborough as a result of the bombardment there, and that at Whitby two were killed and two were injured.

LONDON, December 17, 12:25 p.m.—Seventy dead and 137 badly wounded, with vast damage to property, was the toll taken by the German squadron which shelled three cities on the east coast yesterday. Many other persons were slightly injured.

A majority of the victims at Hartlepool were women and children. Fifteen schoolboys were killed by a single shell, only one boy in a group escaping. Ten persons were killed by the collapse of a building in which they had taken shelter.

According to the official reports this forenoon fifty-five persons met their death in Hartlepool, while 115 were wounded. At Scarborough thirteen dead and twenty wounded was the toll. Both official and unofficial estimates place the Whitby casualties at two dead and two wounded. Of the Hartlepool casualties seven of the dead were soldiers, while of the wounded fourteen men belonged to the military. This total does not include the slightly wounded civilians who bandaged their own hurts and left town on the first train.

A wave of intense anger has spread over England because of the attack, and her denunciation is heard everywhere of a policy which permits the shelling of undefended towns. The fortress at the mouth of the Tees is supposed to give some protection to the important shipping base of Hartlepool, but Whitby and Scarborough are as open to the enemy as is Atlantic City, on the New Jersey coast.

Another Raid Is Expected. Another raid is confidently expected and the entire machinery of home defense has been put into motion. On the east and the southeast coasts of England emergency committees are at work, while in London plans to organize a national guard of men too old for military service are under way.

Although the British admiral's raid on London seemed remote, yesterday's episode drove home the realities of war as nothing else could. Arrangements have been made at Deal and Dover to expedite the removal of the civilian population in case of an attack. These measures are primarily to forestall any mass congestion on the railroads and thoroughfares, which might impede military movements.

Third wireless telegraphically Berlin promptly heard of the outcome of this visit of German cruisers to the English coast, and this morning a wireless message from the German capital, picked up here, repeated details of the attack as printed in the London papers.

Nothing has been added from German official sources. Steaming at high speed, the German raiders, barring mishap, should have reached their advance naval base off Heligoland some time after midnight of the 16th, their trip requiring about fifteen hours. Thirty hours out of port on such a venture in mine-infested waters is a feat English papers are not hostile, and in his heart every Englishman hopes that it will be essayed again.

Squadron Came 350 Miles. In a direct line the mouth of the Tees is about 350 miles from Heligoland, the important German naval base in the North Sea. The British admiral says the German ships were among their fastest. They chose a night when a thick mist prevailed to reach the English coast, and must have left their base at least two hours before dawn.

The belief is general that the German raiders started to return about 2 o'clock, there still remained about seven hours of daylight for the pursuit, which, however, was rendered almost impossible by the fog.

It is presumed that behind them the German cruisers steamed mine, so a fleet of trawlers is now out engaged in the precarious task of sweeping.

The towns attacked yesterday had resumed much of their normal appearance by today, except in the bereaved homes and in the hospitals where the wounded were quarantined. Everywhere the sound of hammering was heard as the damage was repaired.

As the German raiders have taken the assistance of spies. The remarkable secrecy with which the raid was executed is shown by the fact that not a single informed vessel at any east coast port saw the German ships prior to their sudden appearance.

The nearest parallel to this visit of yesterday is found in the activities of the "Red" ones, the terror of English shipping, who menaced English coast towns in 1779.

Enlistments Stimulated. As a result of the raid most of the coast towns of England and many inland towns are adopting the strictest precautions. Street lights have been reduced to the utmost, and all along the coast a sharp lookout is maintained. The raid has had the effect of stimulating recruiting in the British Isles. The increase in the number of men joining the colors today is attributed almost solely to this cause.

The raid is still being widely discussed. Other results from the protection of the civilian population from further German attacks, and the organization in London of a national guard for local defense.

German Raid Fails to Demoralize People, Officers Declare. LONDON, December 17.—There is much speculation in London as to how far the German raid has succeeded in creating a feeling of uneasiness or panic in other coast towns. Great Yarmouth.—We have taken all necessary precautions to protect the town in the event of a bombardment here. The people are quite calm. Harwich.—The city is calm and normal. Hull.—The excitement over the raid soon subsided here. We have full confidence in the navy. Lowestoft.—The raid has not affected our nerves. The emergency committee has taken every precaution. No attack is expected, but we are prepared for any contingency.

TRAVELOGUE COUPON  
THIS COUPON AND 10 CENTS WILL  
ENTITLED TO A TRAVELOGUE  
Star-Roberson Travelogue,  
"JAPAN AND CHINA"  
CONVENTION HALL.